

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FLOREN 00072 232002Z
ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-15 /032 W
-----240234 016289 /70

R 231650Z FEB 77
FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1606
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS FLORENCE 0072

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, IT
SUBJECT: VISIT OF MAYOR OF FLORENCE TO UNITED STATES

REF: FLORENCE 0048

1. FLORENCE MAYOR ELIO GABBUCCIANI (PCI) CALLED ON ME
FEBRUARY 22 TO QUOTE NOTIFY ME PERSONALLY UNQUOTE OF HIS
INTENTION TO VISIT DETROIT APRIL 15-17. HE SAID THAT HE HAD
RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FEBRUARY 13 FROM ITALIAN CONSUL GENERAL
IN DETROIT STATING THAT LETTER CONTAINING OFFICIAL INVITATION
AND DETAILS OF DETROIT PROGRAM HAD BEEN MAILED TO HIM THAT DAY.
LETTER HAS NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED IN FLORENCE.

2. GABBUCCIANI SAID THAT HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED ON VISIT TO
US BY SOCIALIST VICE MAYOR OTTAVIANO COLZI AND ONE OF THE
REPUBLICAN AND ONE OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS OF
FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL.

3. DURING OUR CONVERSATION, GABBUCCIANI STATED THAT HE HAD
ALSO RECEIVED AN INVITATION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF MICHIGAN TO SPEAK AT ANN ARBOR CAMPUS AND THAT IT WAS PROBABLE
HE WOULD ACCEPT THIS INVITATION AND SPEAK THERE DURING HIS VISIT
TO DETROIT. HE ALSO SAID THAT FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL HAD VOTED
TO CONFER HONORARY CITIZENSHIP ON FORMER UNITED NATIONS
SECRETARY GENERAL U THANT AND THAT HE AND FLORENCE DELEGATION
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HOPED TO CALL ON SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM IN NEW YORK IN
THIS CONNECTION.

4. ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT YET DECIDED, FLORENCE DELEGATION MIGHT
ALSO VISIT WASHINGTON TO PAY COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR GAJA
AND TAKE APPROPRIATE NOTE OF RECENT ACQUISITION OF FIRENZE
HOUSE PROPERTY. THIS QUOTE APPROPRIATE NOTE UNQUOTE MIGHT

INCLUDE DONATION OF SOME FLORENTINE ART WORK TO FIRENZE HOUSE. FINALLY, GABBUGGIANI MENTIONED THAT HE HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED A MESSAGE OF FRIENDSHIP FROM CITY OF PHILADELPHIA BREAKING A LONG SILENCE ON THIS SUBJECT. AND THAT HE INTENDED TO REPLY PERSONALLY TO IT. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, HE EVIDENCED LITTLE HOPE THAT A VISIT TO PHILADELPHIA ITSELF WOULD BE PRACTICAL IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

5. FOR INAUGURATION RENAISSANCE CENTER, CITY OF FLORENCE PREPARED TO MAKE IMPORTANT CULTURAL CONTRIBUTION WHICH WILL INCLUDE FOLLOWING: (A) A LOAN OF MAJOR WORK OF RENAISSANCE ART TO DETROIT MUSEUM. CURRENT CHOICE IS CIMABUE CRUCIFIX, WORK DAMAGED DURING 1966 FLOOD AND JUST RECENTLY RESTORED AND RETURNED TO ITS PLACE IN CHURCH OF SANTA CROCE TO ATTENDANT NATIONAL T.V. AND PRESS FANFARE AND PUBLIC PROCESSION THROUGH STREETS OF FLORENCE. CRUCIFIX WAS ONE OF FLOOD VICTIMS RESTORED THANKS TO INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO WHICH US GIV GIFTS FORMED MAJOR PART. ALTERNATIVELY, FLORENCE CONSIDERING SENDING DONATELLO'S BRONZE DAVID. (B) CITY ALSO PREPARED CORRECT TO PREPARING EXTENSIVE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION ON HISTORY OF FLORENCE, EXHIBITION OF ILLUMINATED RENAISSANCE MANUSCRIPTS AND POSSIBLY ARRANGING TO PRESENT CONCERT OF RENAISSANCE MUSIC. (C) CITY NEGOTIATING WITH HARCOURT, BRACE, JOVANOVIH TO DONATE TO DETROIT COMPLETE 12 VOLUME SET OF LEONARDO DA VINCI CODEX ATLANTICUS, VALUED IN EXCESS OF DOLS 10,000.00. (D) BEYOND CULTURAL PACKAGE FOR OPENING OF DETROIT CENTER, A NUMBER OF FUTURE STUDENT AND PROFESSOR EXCHANGES ARE PLANNED IN FIELDS OF ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PLANNING. THE TWO CITIES ALSO PLAN TO COOPERATE IN ART RESTORATION PROJECTS, AS WELL AS UNCLASSIFIED

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SCIENCE AND ART EXHIBITIONS.

6. GABBUGGIANI SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS PROGRAM RECENTLY IN ROME WITH ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL RAIMONDO MANZINI AND WITH PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI. HE INDICATED THAT BOTH APPROVED IDEA OF PROJECT.

7. PRIOR TO GABBUGGIANI'S CALL ON ME, ONE OF HIS PRINCIPAL ASSISTANTS CALLED ON BPAO LA GAMMA TO OUTLINE ABOVE PROJECT AND LEFT COPIES OF FLORENCE CITY HALL INTERNAL DOCUMENTS AND MEMORANDUMS DESCRIBING DETAILS CURRENT STATUS PROGRAMS AND PLANS. GABBUGGIANI SAID THAT HE HAD SENT HIS ASSISTANT TO LA GAMMA WITH THIS MATERIAL SO THAT WE COULD FAMILIARIZE OURSELVES WITH IT AND RAISE ANY QUESTION WE HAD REGARDING IT WITH HIM WHEN HE CALLED ON ME. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE WANTED TO BE CERTAIN THAT WE HAD IN OUR POSSESSION ALL THE INFORMATION ON THIS MATTER AVAILABLE TO HIM, THUS TO AVOID ANY POSSIBILITY OF LACK OF INFORMATION OR MISUNDERSTANDING.

8. AT CONCLUSION OUR VISIT, I GAVE GABBUGGIANI VISA APPLICATION FORM AND ADVISED HIM THAT HIS APPLICATION FOR A VISA WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO DEPARTMENT FOR APPROVAL WHEN I RECEIVED IT. HE SAID HE WOULD SUBMIT APPLICATION ALONG WITH FORMAL LETTER OF INVITATION FROM DETROIT WHEN IT WAS RECEIVED HERE IN FLORENCE.
GORDON

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Film Number: D770063-0569
Format: TEL
From: FLORENCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770218/aaaaaqej.tel
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Message ID: 513661c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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